

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1401963-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 22

Page 10 ~ Duplicate;
Page 11 ~ Duplicate;
Page 13 ~ Duplicate;
Page 14 ~ Duplicate;
Page 15 ~ Duplicate;
Page 16 ~ Duplicate;
Page 40 ~ Duplicate;
Page 42 ~ b3; b6; b7C; b7E;
Page 43 ~ b3; b6; b7C; b7E;
Page 44 ~ b7D; b7E;
Page 60 ~ Duplicate;
Page 61 ~ Duplicate;
Page 62 ~ Duplicate;
Page 63 ~ Duplicate;
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1 - Mr. [redacted]

11/6/61

CODE

CABLEGRAM VIA STATE DEPARTMENT
LEASED LINE

URGENT

EX 104

TO LEGAL ATTACHE LONDON [redacted]

FROM DIRECTOR FBI [redacted]

GORDON ARNOLD LONSDALE, [redacted]

REURLET OCTOBER TWO SEVEN,

ONE NINE SIX ONE. [redacted]

b3
b7E

BUREAU LETTER TO

LONDON OCTOBER TWO SIX, ONE NINE SIX ONE, INSTRUCTED SAN FRANCISCO TO
REINTERVIEW PIANKOVA WHILE IN BERKELEY-SACRAMENTO AREA WHICH WILL BE
NOVEMBER ONE SEVEN AND NOVEMBER ONE EIGHT, ONE NINE SIX ONE. [redacted]

b7D
b7E

Tolson 2 - SAN FRANCISCO [redacted] (ENCLOSURE)
Belmont 1 - NEW YORK [redacted] (ENCLOSURE)
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (route through for review)

JPL STR (7)

VIA CABLEGRAM

INITIALED

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE NOV 6 1961

SEE NOTE PAGE 3

66 NOV 14 1961

MAIL ROOM

TELETYPE UNIT

9:01 pm per JS

b3
b7E

CABLEGRAM TO LEGAL ATTACHE LONDON
RE: GORDON ARNOLD LONSDALE

b3
b7E

CABLEGRAM TO LEGAL ATTACHE LONDON
RE: GORDON ARNOLD LONSDALE

b3
b7D
b7E

SAN FRANCISCO SHOULD ADVISE OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTERVIEW
OF PLANKOVA AND WHEN INTERVIEW CONDUCTED SHOULD PROMPTLY INFORM THE
BUREAU OF SAME AND RESULTS. ENCLOSED FOR SAN FRANCISCO AND NEW YORK
IS ONE COPY EACH OF RELET. SAN FRANCISCO AND NEW YORK ADVISED BY MAIL.

Note: Cable being sent by State Department leased line at no cost
to the Bureau.

NR. 792
ENC. Mr. J
CK. BTJ-cm
APPROVED BY: COT
TYPED BY _____



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
American Embassy
Paris, 8, France

and
br
Date: November 6, 1961
To: Director, FBI [redacted]
From: Legat, Paris [redacted]
Subject: GORDON ARNOOLD LONSDALE
[redacted]

b3
b7E

lead
Reference is made to Bureau 0-1 form dated 10/26/61,
requesting information as to the status of captioned
case in the Paris office.

lead
[redacted]

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lead
[redacted]

b7D
b7E

DOM INTELL DIA
REC.D
P
2 - Bureau
1 - Paris
NWP:md
(4)
ST VN 21

REC-70

12 NOV 14 1961

64 NOV 17 1961

100043 RB

EX 104

ESP. SEC.

b3
b7E

1 - Mr. [REDACTED]

11-14-61

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, San Francisco [REDACTED]

FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI [REDACTED]

GORDON ARNOLD LONSDALE
[REDACTED]

EX-113

b3
b7E

Reurairtel 11-6-61.

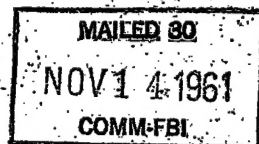
Bufiles reveal no identifiable derogatory information concerning Quentin Griffiths not contained in the files of your office. You are authorized to interview him for information concerning the subject. This interview must be conducted in accordance with prior Bureau instructions concerning investigations and interviews at educational institutions.

1 - New York [REDACTED]

b3
b7E

JPL:hrt
(5)

NOTE: Quentin Griffiths Teacher at Oakland City College, was a classmate of the subject's at the A to Zed School, Berkeley, Calif., during early 30's. Bufiles show that Griffiths' brother and sister-in-law were investigated by Bureau due to their procommunist tendencies. No info developed indicating that Quentin Griffiths had any such tendencies.



Tolson _____
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Mohr _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Malone _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Ingram _____
Gandy _____

64 NOV 17 1961

TELETYPE UNIT [REDACTED]

and
DECODED COPY

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Malone _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan ✓ _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Ingram _____
Gandy _____

☒ **Radio**

☐ **Teletype**

GP
DEFERRED 11-13-61

TO DIRECTOR AND SAC NEW YORK

FROM SAC SAN FRANCISCO 132155

mz
GORDON ARNOLD LONSDALE, [] REMYAIRTEL NOVEMBER 9
LAST. [] ADVISED NOVEMBER 13 INSTANT THAT PIANKOVA
COURNAND WILL ACCOMPANY [] ON RETURN TO BERKELEY
FROM SAN JOSE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 16 AND WILL STAY AT []
RESIDENCE. DUE TO LATE HOUR AND TO STRENUOUS AND CROWDED
SCHEDULE OF TROUPE, ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO CONDUCT INTERVIEWS
ON AFTERNOON NOVEMBER 17 NEXT. BUREAU WILL BE ADVISED PROMPTLY
BY AIRTEL OF RESULTS OF INTERVIEWS.

b3
b6
b7C
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RECEIVED: 6:00 PM MEL

REC

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22 NOV 14 1961

1-cc Bureau
202
57 NOV 20 1961

NSP/SEC.

DECODED COPY

Tolson _____ b6
Belmont _____ b7C
Mohr _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Malone _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan ☒ _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Ingram _____
Gandy _____

☐ **Airgram**

☒ **Cablegram**

WC8
ee
11/15/61

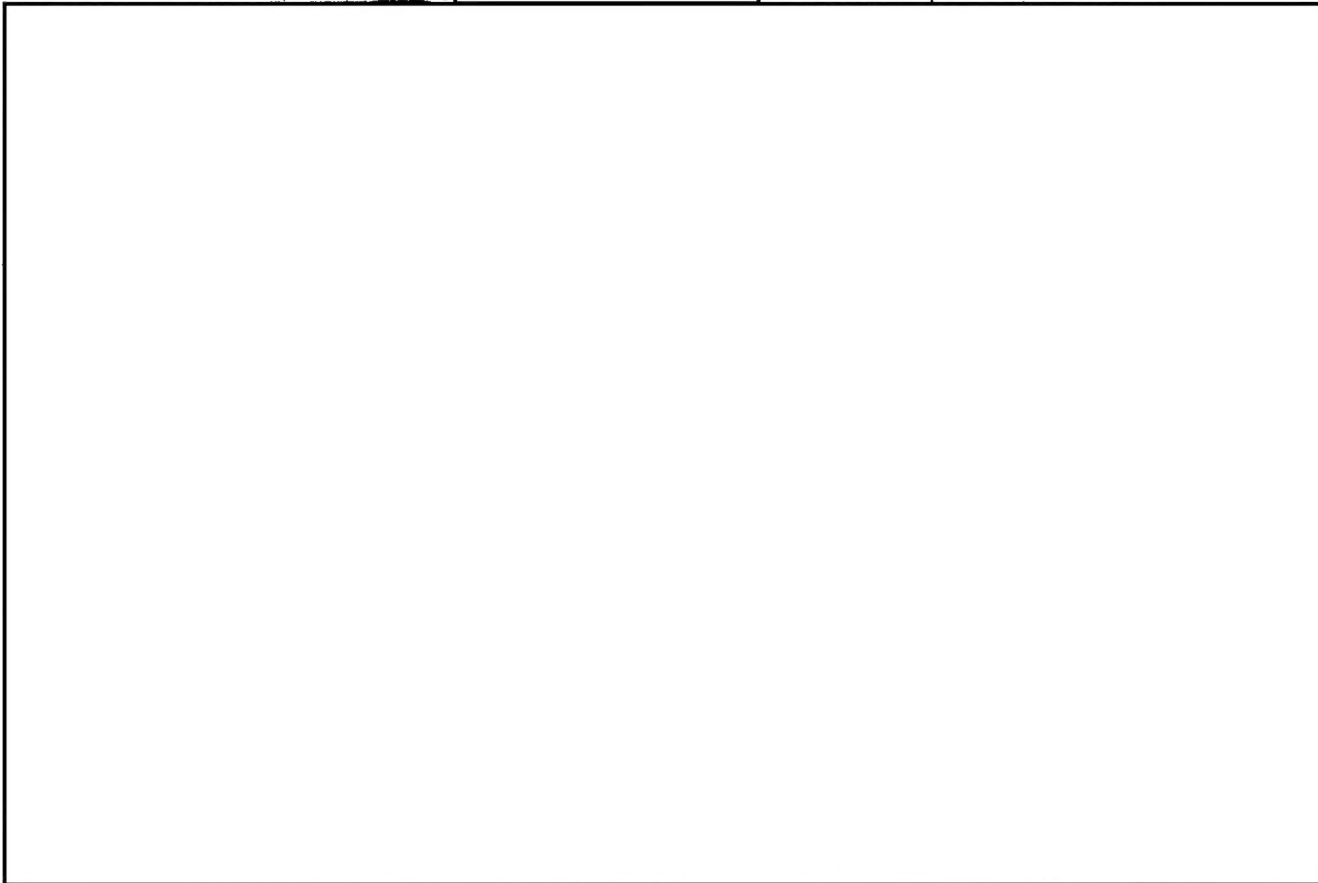
URGENT 11-9-61

TO DIRECTOR

FROM LEGAT, LONDON NO. 446

GORDON ARNOLD LONSDALE, [redacted] REBUCAB NOVEMBER 6

b3
b7D
b7E



RECEIVED:

5:52 PM VLH

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

CC - Mr. Sullivan

BRD CC-MR. [redacted]

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

b6
b7C

11-21-61

CODE

esa CABLEGRAM

URGENT

TO LEGAL ATTACHE LONDON

FROM DIRECTOR FBI [REDACTED]

GORDON ARNOLD LONSDALE, [REDACTED]

REINTERVIEW OF TATIANA

PIANKOVA AND RELATIVES IN US COMPLETED. [REDACTED]

b3
b7E

b7E

1 - New York [REDACTED] *actual*

1 - San Francisco [REDACTED]

JPL:hrt
(6)

1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (route through
SEE NOTE PAGE 2

VIA CABLEGRAM

NOV 21 1961

7:02 PM MLL

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Malone _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
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Tele. Room _____
Ingram _____
Gandy _____

NOV 28 1961

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☒

REC-28

NOV 22 1961

b3
b7E

CABLE TO LONDON
RE: GORDON ARNOLD LONSDALE

[REDACTED]

b3
b7D
b7E

NOTE: Subject is Soviet arrested by British 1-61, convicted of espionage and now serving 25 years in British prison. Our investigation identified him as Conon Mology. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



b3
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Re Paris letter, 11/6/61.

b7D
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b3
b7E

REC- 55

West to Regt, Paris,
 unperated (4)
 OX. m. cyprae
 1 - London Encls. (2)
 12-12-61

DEC 14 1963

NOV 20

CAD

11

SEC

FOR LABOR SOURCE AND REPORT

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Malone _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Ingram _____
Gandy _____

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 11-13-61

1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. [redacted]
1 - Mr. [redacted]

TO: MR. SULLIVAN

FROM:

MR. [redacted]

SUBJECT:

GORDON ARNOLD LONSDALE

[redacted]

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b7D
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Lonsdale is a Soviet arrested by the British 1-7-61 and convicted of espionage. He received a sentence of 25 years. Also convicted were Morris and Lona Cohen, US citizens, and two British nationals.

Through our investigation we identified Lonsdale as Conon Molody, born in Moscow in 1922. He lived in California from 1933 to 1938 with an aunt, Tatiana Piankova. We also learned he entered the U.S. in 1933 as the son of Piankova who is a naturalized U.S. citizen.

[redacted]

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b7E

[redacted]

b7D
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[redacted]

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Enc. [redacted]

REC-17

JPL:hrt
(6)

EX-115

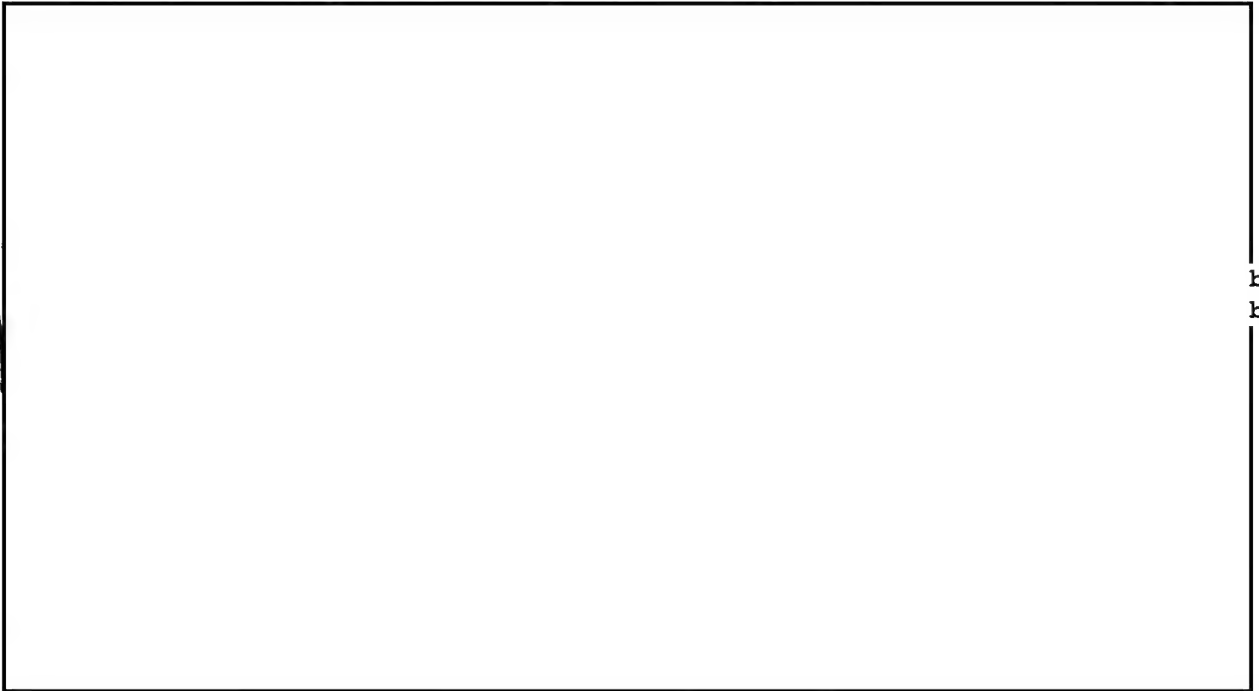
ES [redacted] C.

b3
b7E

62 NOV 2

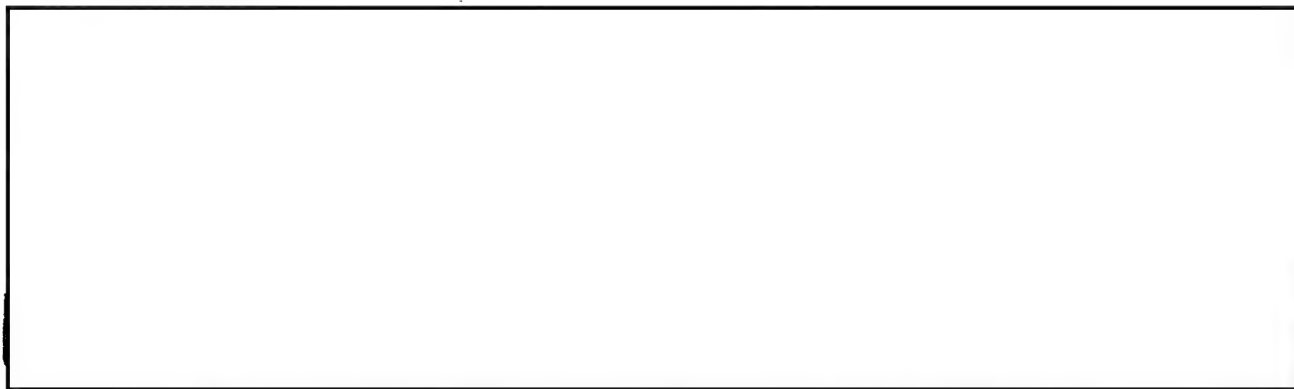
MEMO FOR MR. SULLIVAN
RE: GORDON ARNOLD LONSDALE

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OBSERVATIONS:



SF has been previously instructed to refer any inquiries concerning this case to the Bureau. SF will again be instructed to refer such press inquiries to the Bureau due

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MEMO FOR MR. SULLIVAN
RE: GORDON ARNOLD LONSDALE

[REDACTED]

b3
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to the international ramifications of this case.

[REDACTED]

RECOMMENDATIONS:

[REDACTED]

b7D
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[REDACTED]

b7D
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[REDACTED]

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4. Tatiana Piankova is currently on a tour with her ballet company in the U.S. and will be in the Berkeley, California, area between 11-16 and 11-20-61. SF will interview her after she has talked with her other relatives. She has been interviewed twice by our Legats in Paris and London. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Malone _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Ingram _____
Gandy _____

DECODED COPY

☐ **Airgram**

☒ **Cablegram**

VERY URGENT 11-21-61

TO DIRECTOR

FROM LEGAT, LONDON NO. 454

GORDON ARNOLD LONSDALE. [redacted]

[redacted]

b7D
b7E

[redacted]

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b7C

RECEIVED: 8:35 AM HL

6-1-20 20
11-21-61
[redacted]
ans. 12-11-61

cc:

3RD CC-MR. [redacted]

REC-17

b6
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Called [redacted]

EX-115

NOV 22 1961

b3
b7E

58 NOV 28 1961

1 - Mr. [redacted]

11-24-61

CODE

CABLEGRAM

URGENT

TO LEGAL ATTACHE LONDON

FROM DIRECTOR FBI [redacted]

GORDON ARNOLD LONSDALE, [redacted]

[redacted]

b3
b7D
b7E

1 - New York

1 - San Francisco

JPL:hrt
(5)

NR. *Joe*
ENC. *Rd*
CK. *Mr*
APPROVED BY *Mr*
TYPED BY

1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (route through for review)

NOTE: Subject is Soviet arrested by British 1-61 and sentenced to 25 years in prison for espionage in 3-61. Through our investigation we identified him as Conon Molodt [redacted]

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Tele. Room _____
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Gandy _____

REC-48

EX-115

19 NOV 27 1961

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VIA CABLEGRAM

NOV 24 1961

5:05 PM PM NM

MAIL ROOM

TELETYPE UNIT

b6
b7C

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : MR. W. C. SULLIVAN *WCS*

DATE: 11/3/61

FROM : MR. [redacted]

SUBJECT: GORDON ARNOLD LONSDALE
[redacted]

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. [redacted]
- 1 - Mr. [redacted]

Tolson ☒ b6
Belmont ☒ b7C
Mohr ☒
Callahan ☒
Conrad ☒
DeLoach ☒
Evans ☒
Malone ☒
Rosen ☒
Sullivan ☒
Tavel ☒
Trotter ☒
Tele. Room ☒
Ingram ☒
Gandy ☒

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Lonsdale is the Soviet arrested 1/7/61 by the British and charged with espionage. Upon conviction, he was sentenced to 25 years in prison. Also convicted were Morris and Lona Cohen, U. S. citizens, and two British subjects.

The Bureau through investigation identified Lonsdale as Molody. Lonsdale stated on an application at the University of London that he attended the A to Z School in San Francisco. We located an A to Zed School which had existed in Berkeley, California, during the 1930's. Through interviewing the former principal it was determined the only Russian attending that School was Conon Molody. Investigation in San Francisco identified Molody as being Gordon Lonsdale. It also showed he had lived with an aunt, Tatiana Piankova, in San Francisco from 1933 to 1938, at which time he returned to Russia. We also determined he entered the U. S. as the son rather than the nephew of Piankova who is a naturalized American citizen.

Enclosure *262*
[redacted] *61*
JPL:str (6) *str*

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Memorandum [redacted] to Sullivan
Re: GORDON ARNOLD LONSDALE
[redacted]

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OBSERVATIONS:

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Tatiana Piankova has been interviewed by the Legal Attaches, Paris and London and has admitted bringing Molody into the U. S. as her son. She has also admitted that Molody is Lonsdale. She is now on a tour of the U. S. with her ballet company and will be in Berkeley, California, on Friday, November 17; in Sacramento on Saturday, November 18 and in Portland, Oregon, on Tuesday, November 21. San Francisco has been instructed to interview Piankova while in the Berkeley-Sacramento area and to obtain any information she has as a result of discussions with her relatives in that area. [redacted]

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Malone _____
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Tele. Room _____
Ingram _____
Gandy _____

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: November 24, 1961

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: GORDON ARNOLD LONSDALE
[redacted]

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DEVELOPMENTS:

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Enclosure

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. [redacted]

REW:jcs
(5)

2 ENCLOSURE

66 DEC 5 1961

EX-113

NOV 29 1961

ESP. SEC.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 24, 1961

Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy today announced that an intensive investigation by the FBI has established the true identity of Gordon Arnold Lonsdale, arrested in England last January by British authorities for espionage and now serving a 25-year prison sentence there.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover stated that Lonsdale in reality is a Moscow-born, 38-year old, Russian national named Conon Molody. FBI investigation determined that Molody came to the United States in 1933 posing as his aunt's 11-year-old son. He resided with her in Berkeley, California, until around 1938 when he returned to Russia. While in the United States, Molody attended a Berkeley, private school. After his return to Russia, he is believed to have served in the Red Army prior to his assignment as a Soviet espionage agent.

Mr. Hoover said that FBI investigation has established that Molody came to Canada in 1954 where he obtained a passport and birth certificate in the name of Gordon Arnold Lonsdale. He is known to have left Canada in late February, 1955, and to have sailed

ENCLOSURE

from New York in early March of that year bound for England. This was the only time Molody was in the United States under either of these identities after his 1938 return to Russia.

Molody, as Lonsdale, was arrested in January, 1961, by the British along with Morris and Lona Cohen, American citizens, and two British nationals. All were charged with espionage violations and, following their trial, were convicted and sentenced to British prisons. On March 22, 1961, Molody received a 25-year jail sentence. Since that date a widespread FBI investigation resulted in the positive identification of Lonsdale as Conon Molody.

F B I

Date: 11/17/61

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

Mr. Tolson	_____	b6
Mr. Belmont	_____	b6
Mr. Mohr	_____	b7C
Mr. Callahan	_____	
Mr. Conrad	_____	
Mr. DeLoach	_____	
Mr. Evans	_____	
Mr. Malone	_____	
Mr. Rosen	_____	
Mr. Sullivan	_____	
Mr. Tavel	_____	
Mr. Trotter	_____	
Tele. Room	_____	
Mr. Ingram	_____	
Miss Gandy	_____	

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted]
FROM: SAC, San Francisco [redacted]
SUBJECT: GORDON ARNOLD LONSDALE
[redacted]
OO: New York

Enclosed for the Bureau and New York are six and two copies respectively of letterhead memorandum of above date and caption reflecting results of interviews with NADINE BELOUSOVITCH, QUENTIN GRIFFITHS, TATIANA PIANKOVA, EVELYN COUNAND, [redacted] and ANASTASIA NAUMOVA.

[redacted] X
Interviews at Berkeley, California, on November 17, 1961, were conducted by SAs [redacted] and [redacted].
[redacted] Remaining investigation was conducted by SA [redacted]

6- ENCLOSURE - 1 - Enc 643 RA
③ - Bureau (Enc. 6) (AIR MAIL - REGISTERED)
2 - New York [redacted] (AIR MAIL - REGISTERED)
1 - San Francisco
KGT:lg
(6)

Copy to Legat London (2)
by routing slip for
☐ Info Section
date 11-22-61
by [redacted]

REC-45

102
Legat Paris NOV 30 1961
3-9-62

Approved: [redacted] Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

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b7D

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F B I

b6
b7C

Date: 11/24/61

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI ATTENTION: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DE LOACH
FROM : SAC, SAN FRANCISCO [redacted]
SUBJECT: GORDON ARNOLD LONSDALE
[redacted]

b3
b7E

Re SF telephone call to Bureau and SF airtel to Bureau,
both 11/24/61.

Enclosed for the Bureau's information are four copies
of an airtel entitled "Ace Red Spy Once Lived Here," which appeared
in the Home Final edition, 11/24/61 issue, of the "San Francisco
News-Call Bulletin," on Page 1.

b7D
b7E

UNRECORDED C FILED IN 94-8-117-

50 DEC 8 1961
3 Bureau (Encl.-4) AMSD - RM
1 SF

GMP:ekk
(4)
ENCLOSURE
REC-34

Approved: [Signature]
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

10 DEC 17 1961

TFM: [Signature]
ESP SEC

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F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain-text or code)

Via _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

- 2 -

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b7E

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

EXCLUSIVE

Ace Red Spy Once Lived Here

(Copyright, 1961, by the San Francisco News-Call Bulletin)

The spy-master of an espionage ring in England, Gordon Arnold Lonsdale, has been positively identified as a Russian citizen and former Bay Area resident, the News-Call Bulletin learned today.

This is the first positive identification of Lonsdale.

His local connections had not been previously known or even hinted at.

He lived in Berkeley from 1933 to 1938 and attended the now-defunct A-to-Zed School there, the News-Call Bulletin learned.

Lonsdale was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment by the British government on March 22. He was convicted of espionage.

Four companions—two Americans and two British civil servants—were given sentences of 20 and 15 years.

The five were arrested Jan. 7. Their trial, which began a month later, was heralded as the most sensational in Britain in years.

The English government said during the trial that Lonsdale was a member of the Soviet intelligence.

LONSDALE identified himself as a Canadian businessman.

But the News-Call Bulletin has learned that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has definitely established Lonsdale's background.

• His real name is Conon Molody.

• His age is 38.

• He was born in Moscow and remains a Soviet citizen.

• He came to the United States in 1933, posing as the

11-year-old son of an aunt who lived in Berkeley. He lived there until 1938, attending the then-well-known private school, not yet engaged in espionage because he was still too young.

• He returned to Russia in 1938, served in the Army and then as an espionage agent.

• In 1954 he went to Canada, obtained a birth certificate identifying him as Lonsdale, then returned to England via a U. S. port.

AT THE time of his arrest he was part of an international spy ring.

Four years ago the U. S. government arrested Soviet Col. Ivanovich Abel in New York as head of a spy apparatus in the U. S. Abel

Continued on Page 4, Col. 4

SAN FRANCISCO NEWS-CALL BULLETIN

San Francisco, California

Date: 11-24-61

Edition: HOME

Editor: CHARLES H. SCHNEIDER

General Manager: WELLS SMITH

Case:

Classification:

ENCLOSURE

Russian Spy Linked to Bay School

Continued from First Page
was given 30 years imprisonment. He has refused to talk.

Among Abel's possessions was data referring to Morris and Lona Cohen, two U. S. citizens, whom the FBI had investigated. However, sufficient evidence to arrest was not obtained.

The Cohens departed America.

Among the four persons arrested with Molody were "Peter, 50, and Helen, 47, Kroger," London book-sellers. The FBI last February established that the Krogers were in reality the Cohens.

IN THEIR London house they kept various pieces of spy equipment. These included a powerful radio transmitter hidden beneath a concrete slab in a secret basement at their house.

At the trial, Molody took responsibility for whatever charges the government had brought and said the Cohens were innocent. Both he and they said they had been friends, and that they allowed him to live in their home. But the court gave the Cohens 20-year sentences.

The two British civil servants were Henry F. Houghton, 55, and his fiancée, Ethel E. Gee, who received 15 years each. They made top-secret British naval secrets available to Molody.